Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A layered filter structure, comprising:

a first layer, said first layer comprising a porous metal layer comprising a non-woven metal fiber fleece comprising long metal fibers; and

a second layer, said second layer consisting of ~~comprising~~ a self-supporting layer of sintered short metal fibers;

said first layer and said second layer being sintered together.

2. (Previously Presented) A layered filter structure according to claim 1, wherein said second layer has a maximum roughness depth defined by an R_t value of less than three times an equivalent diameter of a short metal fiber of said second layer, said R_t value being measured over a length equal to a thickness of said second layer.

3. (Previously Presented) A layered filter structure according to claim 1, wherein said short metal fibers of said second layer are three-dimensionally randomly orientated.

4. (Previously Presented) A layered filter structure according to claim 1, wherein the metal fibers of said first layer are sintered before the first and second layers are sintered together.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) A layered filter structure according to claim 1, wherein said first layer further comprises metal powder particles.

7. (Previously Presented) A layered filter structure according to claim 1, wherein said first layer further comprises short metal fibers.

8. (Previously Presented) A layered filter structure according to claim 1, wherein said first layer is supported by a reinforcing structure.

9. (Currently Amended) A layered filter structure, comprising:

a first layer, said first layer comprising a porous metal layer comprising a non-woven metal fiber fleece comprising long metal fibers; and

a second layer, said second layer consisting of a self-supporting layer of sintered short metal fibers and one or more of ~~according to claim 1, wherein said second layer further comprises~~ long metal fibers and ~~and/or~~ metal powder particles;

said first layer and said second layer being sintered together.

10. (Currently Amended) A layered filter structure according to claim [[1]] 9, wherein said second layer consists of ~~comprises~~ between 20 and 80 % short metal fibers and between 20 and 80 % long metal fibers and/or metal powder particles.

11. (Previously Presented) A layered filter structure according to claim 1, wherein said first layer has a porosity ranging between 50 and 85 %.

12. (Previously Presented) A layered filter structure according to claim 1, wherein said second layer has a porosity ranging between 50 and 85 %.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a layered filter structure, said method comprising the steps of :

providing a first layer, said first layer comprising a porous metal layer;

providing a second layer, said second layer consisting of ~~comprising~~ a self-supporting layer of short metal fibers which are sintered together;

bringing said first layer and said second layer in contact with each other to form a layered structure; and

sintering said layered structure.

14. (Previously Presented) A layered filter structure according to claim 1, wherein the layered filter structure is configured as a surface filtration medium.

15. (Previously Presented) A layered filter structure according to claim 14, wherein the layered filter structure is configured for the filtration of liquids or gases.

16. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ layered filter structure according to claim 1, wherein the short metal fibers have a length over diameter ratio ranging between 30 and 100, and the long metal fibers have a length over diameter ratio higher than 100.

17. (New) A layered filter structure according to claim 1, wherein the porous metal layer comprises a stack of different metal fiber fleeces.

18. (New) A layered filter structure according to claim 1, wherein the first layer and the second layer are made of the same material.

19. (New) A method of manufacturing a layered filter structure according to claim 13, wherein said first layer comprises a stack of different metal fiber fleeces.

20. (New) A method of manufacturing a layered filter structure according to claim 19, wherein each fleece in the stack is sintered separately before the step of sintering the layered structure.